Vol. VI. Numb. 14

THE OBSERVATOR.

More of the Rehearser's *Sayings. What he says in Favour of the pretended Prince of* Wales. *He makes* Revolution *and* Rebellion *the same Thing. The* Rehearser *accuses the* Dutch *of burning the City of* London. *His Complaint of the Clergy's being tax'd by* Parliament, *and not by* Convocation; *as also of their being hang'd without being first degraded. With Remarks.*

From Wednesday, April 16. to Saturday, April 19. 1707.

Country-m. MAster, have you got any more Text for me?

Obs. Never fear it, *Roger*, the *Rehearser* has made ample Provision in that Point.

Country-m. You show'd me the last Time we met, how much he was in Love with the *French* King, for harbouring the pretended Father: Is not he as much in Love with him for protecting the pretended Son? Does he say nothing in favour of *little Master?*

Obs. Yes, abundance, *Roger.* In his 2d Part, *New Assoc.* pag. 34. he says, *It is not only the present Age, and Persons of those, who have a Hand in disturbing of settl'd Governments, and bringing about* new fangl'd Revolutions, *that suffer for their* REBELLION *and* TREACHERY: *This is a Sin that God does visit to the third and forth Generation.*

Country-m. Settl'd Governments, Master! King *James*'s Government was settl'd; and who, I pray, unsettl'd it? 'Twas not the Dissenters that shook him out of the Throne. A *new fangl'd Revolution!* 'Twas no new Thing to oppose and depose a Tyrant. The Revolution, tho' not in the Manner, yet in the Nature of it, is justify'd by the Practice of our Ancestors, prescrib'd by our Laws, and was according to the Constitution and Capitulations of the Realm.

A *new fangl'd Revolution!* Is not that saying the Queen came to the Crown, and holds her Right to it on the Foot of a *new fangl'd Revolution?* Which in plain *English*, is saying, her Majesty is a *new fangl'd* QUEEN. Impudent Priest!

And in calling the REVOLUTION, a REBELLION, does he not say, that the Queen came to the Crown by Rebellion? And does he not thereby stigmatize the Church, who brought the Revolution to pass, as a confederated Band of REBELS? 'Tis an ill Bird that fouls his own Nest.

Obs. In his *Cassandra*, pag. 12. he calls the *Rebellion* of 41, the *Revolution* of 41, and throughout that whole Book, he sets *Revolution* and *Rebellion* on the same Foot.

Country-m. As to the Sin of Rebellion in the Revolution, which he says God will visit to the third and fourth Generation; I think it was a Sin every honest Man ought to have been guilty off. High-Church can transform Vertues into Sins, as best suits their Interest. But certainly to be engag'd in a Warfare for Religion and Liberty, against Popery and Slavery, is a Thing must be acceptable to God Almighty; for 'tis in Defence of his own Cause against Superstition and Idolatry.

Obs. He goes on in the same Place, *What dreadful Calamities ensu'd upon the Usurpation of our* Hen. 4. *and tho' his Son* Hen. 5. *and his Son* Hen. 6. *held the Crown successively, yet could not this gain a thorough Settlement, nor the Contest of above an hundred Years, with more Rivers of Blood, than it cost in twice conquering* France; *yet all this could not bring the Kingdom to a Settlement,* 'till the right Line was at last happily restor'd.

Country-m. And who was it restor'd that right Line?

Obs. The very same People that before had put it out of what he calls the right Line.

Country-m. I take that Prince, who comes to the Crown by and with the Consent of *willing People*, and who governs according to Law, and the Constitution of the Realm, to be always in the right Line; and he that does otherwise, is in the wrong, let him be never so nearly related to the preceeding King.

If Mankind should venture the whole Cargo of their Liberties on the brittle Bark of Succession, they'll soon suffer Shipwreck. The Office of Governor cannot descend in Succession, but to him that is fit for Government. We must suit the Head to the Crown, and not the Crown to the Head; we must not streighten or widen the Crown, to see how pliable it is; its Dimensions are settl'd by Law, and can't be alter'd under any Pretence whatsoever —. But this he advances in Favour of the pretended Prince at *St. Germains.*

Obs. In his Supplement to 2d Part, *New Assoc.* pag. 9. he says, *Where there are Competitors for the Crown, it is a grievous Judgment upon that People, and cannot end without the* Destruction *or* Restauration *of those that are nearest in the Line of Succession.*

Country-m. This is speaking out. There's not one Hound of the Faction, that opens with full Mouth like our *Irish* Hound *Fowler.* He'll advise the Restauration of *Perkin*; he'll say the Church is in Danger, when others are punish'd for so saying. Happy Man, catch a Mackerel! He rides safe under all Ministries. Could one ha' thought an *Irish* Understanding had so much Cunning?

Well, but 'tis a grievous Judgment upon a Nation, where there are Competitors for the Crown. Not so grievous neither, where the *little* Faction of High-Church are of the wrong Side: But a sad Thing is it, that it can terminate in nothing but ~~the *Destruction*~~ or *Restauration*

ſtauration of thoſe that are neareſt in the Line of Succeſſion.

The People of *England*, did never exclude the neareſt in Succeſſion, that were good for any Thing; and if they were bad, better an hundred of 'em be *deſtroy'd*, than the People looſe their Liberties by their being *reſtor'd* —. But pray, Mr. *Leſley*, tell us who do you mean by the next in Succeſſion?

Obſ. He'll tell you the Prince at *St. Germains*; he's ſhot-free, and can ſpeak out. But, *Roger*, I ſhall endeavour to ſhow, from his own Words, that he is as much againſt the Confederacy Abroad, as he is againſt the Government at Home, eſpecially againſt the *Dutch*, our beſt Ally. See *Wolf ſtript*, Part 1. pag. 22. and you will find theſe Words:

The Plot appear'd again in a Deviliſh Manner, in the Year 1666. *which* Heath *tells, pag.* 549. *and you'll find it in the* London Gazette, No 4748, 4749. *from* April 26. *to* April 30. 1666. *and they were to have burnt* London *too, and in all Appearance did do it, it being burnt the ſame Day five Months after, which was prov'd upon 'em to be the Day agreed on to do it, by a* Councellor *of the Great Ones, that ſat at* London, *who receiv'd the Directions from another in* Holland, *who ſat with the* STATES.

Country-m. Maſter, here is a heavy Charge againſt her Majeſty's good Ally, the *States-General*, who are accus'd as *Incendiaries*, of burning and deſtroying our capital City: A heavy Charge, indeed! and 'tis pitty the *Dutch* have no Miniſter here to complain: That might do ſomething, tho' all the honeſt Men in *England*, have for ſeveral Years complain'd againſt him to no Purpoſe.

But what a Proof he brings, that the *Dutch* did burn the City of *London!* a *Gazette!* If he had quoted the old Ballads of *the Children in the Wood*, or *Colly my Cow*, it would have ſerv'd his Turn as well; it would have been of equal Validity with the other. *Gazettes* ſpeak, for the moſt part, the Intereſt of the Court; and 'tis well known, at that Time, thoſe that burnt the City of *London*, had all the Court-Management in their Hands. But I have heard of another *Gazette*, that ſpoke quite otherwiſe, which was induſtriouſly deſtroy'd; and perhaps this he mentions as printed in its Room.

But what ſhall we ſay in this Caſe? The Proteſtants, and the Inſcription round the *Monument*, tell us, the City was burnt by the Papiſts. The *Rehearſer* proves it was burnt by the *Dutch*, and the *hot-pot* Prieſt at *Stepney*, lays it to the Charge of the *Engliſh* Diſſenters. I think we had as good conclude it was not burnt at all, ſince 'tis not agreed upon who did it.

And, Maſter, I ſee a *Bear*, as well as a *Wolf*, in this Calumny on the *Dutch*; his Deſign is againſt the *Engliſh* Government: Firſt, to ſpirit the People againſt the *Dutch*, as having once already burnt our capital City, inſinuating, that they will do it again when Occaſion ſhall offer. Secondly, againſt the Queen, in telling the People her Majeſty is engag'd with an Ally that is dangerous, as having done us the greateſt Miſchief that can be, and having acted upon us the moſt horrid piece of Villany that ever was known.

Obſ. High-Church will beſpatter, murder, and aſſaſſinate any King or Queen, that will not come under their Tuition; they are ſo much accuſtom'd to uſe the *Ferula* and Rod, that neither Kings or Parliaments can eſcape their Laſh. They muſt domineer; and whoever curtails their Power, incurs an *Anathema*.

The *Rehearſer*, in his *Caſſandra*, pag. 12. ſays, *The Clergy were never tax'd, but by* CONVOCATION, *'till the curſed* REVOLUTION *of* 41, *which over-turn'd all Foundations.*

Country-m. That's a good Reaſon why the Revolution of 41 was *a curſed one*, becauſe they would not ſuffer the Clergy to contribute ſomething or nothing, as beſt pleas'd 'em, towards the Support of the Government. And this was overturning of Foundations, ſetting the Church with the Steeple downwards; and then, how could the Bells ring on Holy-days? And was it not ſetting the Prieſt on his Head in the Pulpit? What a wicked *Revolution* was this!

Well, but if the *Revolution* of 41 was a curſed one, becauſe the Clergy were tax'd at that Time out of CONVOCATION; have not our Kings and Parliaments, that ſince that Time have tax'd them contrary to their Conſent, been *curſed KINGS*, and *curſed PARLIAMENTS*, who have follow'd the Example of 41? This is his Meaning.

But from whom have the Clergy their Subſiſtance and Livings, but from the STATE? And are not they bound to help ſupport that Government, by whoſe Bounty they ſubſiſt? And if the Clergy are ſo very forward and induſtrious in chuſing Members of Parliament, whoſe proper Buſineſs it is to tax the People, are they not to be tax'd by the Repreſentatives they have choſen? It ſhows a power of Impudence in the Clergy, to pretend to tax themſelves, and at the ſame Time to chuſe Members to tax us.

Obſ. Alack-a-day, *Roger*, the poor Creatures have a deal of Grievances; we won't let them be Head of the Church over the QUEEN, and pay them ſo little Reſpect, that their proud Stomachs are ready to burſt. We put ſo many Indecencies upon 'em, that they are not able to bear it, and they will ſome Time or other, *rouſe their Natures*, in order to make themſelves the more rever'd. Is it not a ſad Thing the *Rehearſer* complains of in his *Caſſandra*, pag. 13.?

Says he, *Would it be* decent *to ſee a* Clergy-man *hang'd in his Gown? And were it not fit ſome other Hand ſhould diſrobe him, than the Executioner?*

Country-m. Maſter, I do think, if a Clergy-man deſerves hanging, he ought to be hang'd in his Gown for Diſtinction ſake; and if *Jack Ketch* does diſrobe him, he ought himſelf to be hang'd for ſo doing. For look ye, Maſter, ſhall the Clergy, whilſt they are honeſt Men, wear Parſons Gowns, and when they turn Rogues, and come to be hang'd for Treaſon, Fellony, or Murder, put on a Lay Habit, and ſo ſcandalize us?

As for Example, Maſter, ſuppoſe a Prieſt was juſt going up *Paul Lorrain*'s Tree, and ſome Body ſhould aſk the Queſtion, *Who is that going to be hang'd?* And ſome *Jacobite* Knave, or other, in the Crowd, ſhould make anſwer, *'Tis* Roger, *the* Obſervator's *Country-man*; here 'tis preſently ſpread abroad, that I am hovelpoſted. When there could be no ſuch Miſtake, if the Prieſt were dreſs'd in his proper Habit.

Obſ. Roger, we will take Care to paint this high-flying Faction in their proper Colours, with Paint ground by themſelves, even from their own Words and Sentences.

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*** Whereas the Author of this Paper has been inform'd by ſeveral Perſons, that a Report is ſpread Abroad, That this Paper is laid down; the ſaid Author thereupon thought fit to give the Publick Notice of the Ground and Occaſion of this Report. The Hawkers, who cry the Papers about the Streets, make it their Practice to lend the Papers to Read at ſo much a Week, to Cuſtomers that are willing to know publick Affairs, but at the leaſt Expence, and afterwards return them to the Publiſher. To prevent this unjuſt and wicked Practice, the Author of this Paper has order'd his Publiſher to take no more Returns, than two in a Quire, which has provok'd the Hawkers to ſpread the Report of the Paper's being laid down. And this may ſerve to inform Gentlemen, That what they pay for Reading publick Papers, is ſo much Loſs to the Proprietor, and an unjuſt Gain to the Hawker.

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